

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 115
By Davidson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Samuel Boyd Smith.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Samuel Boyd Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Boyd Smith was born in Adams to parents Carl S. Smith, a rural mail carrier and Methodist preacher, and Annie Tolleson Smith, a farmer's daughter and homemaker who was renowned for her cooking and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, as a child, he attended the Robertson County public schools and the Bell School; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from Springfield High School, Samuel Boyd Smith matriculated at Milligan College in Greeneville; and

WHEREAS, he also attended the University of Tennessee before joining the United States Army Air Corps in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Boyd Smith served his country with great honor and distinction during a four-year tour of duty, most of which was spent in Europe; and

WHEREAS, upon completing his military service, he returned to Tennessee and enrolled at George Peabody College in Nashville; he completed his Bachelor's Degree in 1956, and later that year entered Vanderbilt University for graduate study in History; and

WHEREAS, after earning his doctoral degree, Dr. Smith moved to Tampa, Florida, where he joined the faculty at the University of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Tennessee in 1964, when he accepted the position as State Librarian and Archivist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith served with acumen and alacrity during his tenure as the Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, and he earned the respect of his fellow workers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Dr. Smith also served as Chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission and editor of the *Andrew Jackson Papers*; and

WHEREAS, his extensive work in the State Archives and the Historical Commission afforded Dr. Samuel Boyd Smith the opportunity to complete two significant scholarly works: *Tennessee History: A Bibliography*, published in 1974, remains the definitive reference work on the history of Tennessee, and *Volume I* of the *Andrew Jackson Papers*, published in 1980, is the first volume in a project that continues at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving his position as Librarian and Archivist, Dr. Smith returned to the classroom in 1969, and he devoted three decades to full-time teaching and scholarship in Tennessee History at the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University, whose faculty he joined in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was a remarkably gifted professor who worked assiduously to provide the highest quality education to his students; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Smith distinguished himself as a professional of the highest dedication, ability, and integrity, and the positive influence he had on so many young lives is truly beyond measure; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments as an administrator and editor aside, it was his passion for teaching and learning that endeared him to a generation of students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-six years, the former Martha Sue Fitzsimmons, and his sons: David Fitzsimmons Smith, Mark Tolleson Smith, and Stephen Boyd Smith; he was further blessed with six beloved grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Samuel Boyd Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Samuel Boyd Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.